



Ambassador NEWSLETTER 2018





A Letter From Yumi

Dear Ambassadors and Fellows,

Happy New Year from GCI. We hope 2018 has been as amazing and transformative a year for you as it has been for us. We continue to grow and expand our community around the world, which we could not do without all of you.

This year, we introduced the Ambassador Advisory Council with Ambassadors Jessica and Jawed from 2014 and Karishma, Mako, David, Takunda and Kevin from 2015. They have been instrumental in reaching out to other Ambassadors and helping to keep the GCI Community connected. Mako even held 3 GCI Meet-ups in Japan this summer; one of which, I was able to attend.

We are always excited to hear from and catch up with all of you and this year we were able to do this on a much larger scale with our first big GCI Reunion, which took place in New York City, including a visit to the United Nations! Make sure you turn to page 3 to read about that special 2-day event where 30 Ambassadors and Fellows from around the world joined us to connect. We truly hope to be able to do this again in the future.

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This past July, we hosted the 5th Annual Global Citizens Youth Summit. Check out page 4 to meet the 28 new Fellows and read about their wonderful experiences. They were the first Fellows to attend the Summit while our new Professional Development Seminar successfully ran in parallel, and we look forward to engaging more educators as we get ready to launch both programs internationally in Tokyo, Japan next summer.

We continue to be inspired by your bright futures. From studying at universities all around the world, to interning at Goldman Sachs and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and even graduating and taking on full-time positions at the International Monetary Fund and the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard, your successes always warm our hearts. However, please take this moment to think about how you define “success” and try to balance your career with things that are most important: family, deep and meaningful friendships and the joy of philanthropy and giving back.

Thank you for sharing your accomplishments and updates with us. We are here to support you on your journeys as global citizens and look forward to building a global and dynamic community together.

Sincerely yours,

Yumi Kuwana
Founder and President

Above, Yumi Kuwana speaking to the Ambassadors and Fellows during the GCI Reunion in New York City.

The NYC Reunion

Abdallah. Alexander. Alexandra P. Alexandra S. Aziza. Bella. Birk. David G. David S. Eden S. Eita. Elif. Erik. Ghada. Ider. Jae. Jawed. JD. Kamel. Karishma. Kevin. Michelle. Nancy. Obaidullah. Omar. Sydney. Takunda. Trevor. Whitney. Wisdom.



30 of our Ambassadors and Fellows from 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 traveled from far and wide (all over the US, the UK, Brazil and Turkey) to join us for the first big GCI Reunion in New York City.



The Reunion started at the United Nations on Friday, November 9th, where we participated in an icebreaker activity led by the captivating Warren Hardy from Narrative4. Our Ambassadors and Fellows were invigorated after sharing their stories of objects with personal importance. We were then joined by a panel of UN staff who shared their personal journeys to working at the United Nations.

Following the UN Panel, we heard from Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Youth Envoy. She was incredibly inspiring and, as did the panelists, prompted thoughtful questions from our Ambassadors and Fellows. We were even able to get a group photo with her!



After lunch and a fascinating tour of the UN, we split into two groups and traveled by subway and on foot in the pouring rain to our afternoon sessions at Goldman Sachs and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG). We heard from two very different and very insightful speakers at each of these companies.

We all convened at BCG for a sumptuous dinner and listened to GCI's Founder and President, Yumi Kuwana, as well as three Ambassadors: Karishma Bhagani (2014, AAC Member), Kevin Zhen (2014, AAC Member) and Obaidullah Barakzai (2017). We also gave bags to everyone who attended the Reunion, purchased from Alqaim Lalani's Glocal Service Project (Fellow 2018), to support the medical costs of child cancer patients in Tanzania. We are happy for every opportunity to hear from and support GCI Ambassadors and Fellows as they continue to change the world.



The next morning, we met for brunch at the Freehand Hotel, where some of us had stayed the night before, and were joined by some of our amazing supporters. This was an invaluable time to connect over more delicious food and was a great way to finish the second official GCI Reunion.

2018

Our Newest Fellows

Abby. Adya. Alexander. Alexandra. Alqaim. Anas. Andy. Birk. Diane. Eita. Elizabeth. Emiri. Jae. Khue. Louis. Maile. Maria Vitoria. Milgo. Nga Laam. Osama. Pratika. Rawad. Sama. Shelzy. Skylar. Tanner. Tsetsen. Zaid.



The Global Citizens Youth Summit 2018 began with our 28 Fellows from all over the world arriving at The Irving House at Harvard, our usual first stop and hub for the nine days of the Summit. New friendships were made almost instantaneously, as the Fellows bonded over ice breakers and watched their own application videos compiled into our traditional Welcome Video.

in their brains from the Welcome Dinner, the Fellows began their week knowing they would have to look out for one another. On the second day of the Summit, they began bright and early as we headed to Thompson Island for team bonding exercises. Through various activities, the Fellows learned to work together to overcome obstacles, both physical and mental.

With the concept of “ship - shipmates - self” firmly planted

The 2018 cohort is comprised of representatives of 22 different cultural heritages and speaks 27 different languages. Each of the Fellows has a desire to improve the world in unique and sensitive ways, building upon their individual experiences and diverse backgrounds. This, as it does every year, made the discussions richer and gave us all an opportunity we rarely have outside of the Summit.

Throughout the week, the Fellows heard from our wonderful Inspirational Speakers, who spoke to them about challenging their own perceptions and instincts, pursuing their own calling, not striving to achieve for the sake of achieving, solving the root of problems in their communities and considering ethics in all matters of their lives. Through these speakers, they learned to tell stories effectively and consider how and why entrepreneurial leaders do what they do and derive success from it.

In between the academic sessions, Glocal Service Project workshops, speakers and more, new and old friends found time to bond and connect. As the Fellows made their way to breakfast and Morning Circle each morning and as they tried new international-based or influenced dinners and continued to connect over homework and presentation preparation each evening, they all found new ways to share their own experiences with one another.

The Summit flew by, as it always does! We have been impressed with how each year Fellows are able to make lasting friendships and continue to stay connected with us as they work on their GSPs during the rest of their Fellowship program. We have learned so much from each and every one of them and we know they will move on to change the world for the better, just as our Ambassadors from previous Fellowships have done.



2017

Abdallah. Catherine. Daniel. Elif. Gianna. Giuliana. Haydn. Ider. Joe. Karla. Kelsey. Kemmia. Konstantina. Kuzivakwashe. Kylie. Mako. Marius. Masa. Matt. Norzin. Obaidullah. Omar. Omowunmi. Paulo. Sydney. Taylor. Trevor. Yue.



Abdallah
Jordan

My GSP was a student Enrichment program that revolved around several topics, including education, refugees, youth development and engagement as well as initiating a program similar to GCI that is local across Jordan. I was successfully able to launch the project in my high school, King's Academy. As I graduated and attended Northwestern University, younger students in my high school continued working on my project with supervision by the Round Square office in my high school.



Gianna
United States

This summer I worked as a Camp Counselor at a local Montessori School in New Rochelle, NY. I began my freshman year of college abroad in Greece, studying at the American College of Thessaloniki for my first semester. For my second semester I will be heading to Northeastern back in Boston where I will finish up my freshman year.



Giuliana
Chile, Canada

I feel an activity that has pushed me to be an engaged global citizen since I last left GCI was when I was given the chance to give a Ted Talk on Witchcraft. After leaving GCI I was able to start an individualized study on a topic of my choice and I selected witchcraft. So I developed a comparative study about witchcraft and compare it to the individual worldviews that specific societies have on witchcraft. This connects to my GCI Fellowship because in order to develop this study I had to meet different people from many different places and really try to engage with them to understand the unique perspectives as individuals and on witchcraft, more specifically. I feel this really sums up my experience at GCI because in able to absorb as much information as I could from the people that surrounded me in GCI I also had to open myself up to different worldviews on a lot of different topics. One of the topics that could have come up is witchcraft, and I feel that being able to discuss this more controversial topics between peers is what really helps Fellows learn. Actually, one of the people I had to engage with in order to get more information about my comparative witchcraft study was a fellow Mongolian peer from GCI 2017. With all this research I collected I was able to give a TED talk that is now available in the TEDx youtube site, which allowed me to really share my research with a large number of people and express my views on very controversial topics, skills that GCI gave me. Afterward, I was also able to write a research paper, to sum up, and reflect on all the experiences I had gathered from the research. I feel that the opportunity I got to connect with different people about a topic like witchcraft, is similar to the experiences I got at GCI, although they were more enriched thanks to the skills I acquired at GCI.



Above, Giuliana recording a video update to be shared at the GCI Reunion.



Ider Mongolia

I followed the advice of my undergrad friends this summer. They said freshman year is twice the workload of high school so the summer should be spent relaxing and spending time with family. I spent my time leisurely: catching up on books, planning road trips, and hanging out with loved ones. This August I flew to New York to start college at Columbia University! I was also able to be there for the November reunion.



Karla United States

In the fall, I started attending the Cal State University of North Ridge (CSUN). Hence, I attended a STEM research program at CSUN in July. As of right now, I'm not sure if I will be taking on any new projects but I sure do want to. Relating to my GSP, during the summer, I met with one of my high school teachers, Ms. Gonzalez who is in possession of the Seed Funding money. We met to purchase school supplies at Office Depot such as backpacks, loose leaf paper, pencils, etc. Materials that students need readily available. Because she is a teacher, Ms. Gonzalez is able to get discounts (yay!). Then, when the materials arrive, we met once again to prepare them for the upcoming school year which usually begins in August. I plan to distribute the backpacks to homeless students at Animo Jackie Robinson and other schools nearby.



*Top, Ider's graduation photo.
Bottom, Karla with Kara Dove at the Facing
History and Ourselves (FHAO) annual
Upstander Celebration.*



Konstantina Greece

After graduating United World College Changshu China, this fall I headed towards the University of Hong Kong for both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Laws, while in between the two, my summer was filled with travelling and reconnecting with my Greek roots. Global Citizens Initiative helped me develop as a leader, thinker and person as the qualities it enabled me to cultivate have had a vast impact on my personality and skills as well as and most importantly on their practical application to better the lives of those around me. The lessons and memories I have received from such an intense and inspiring Summit will without a doubt follow me for a lifetime.

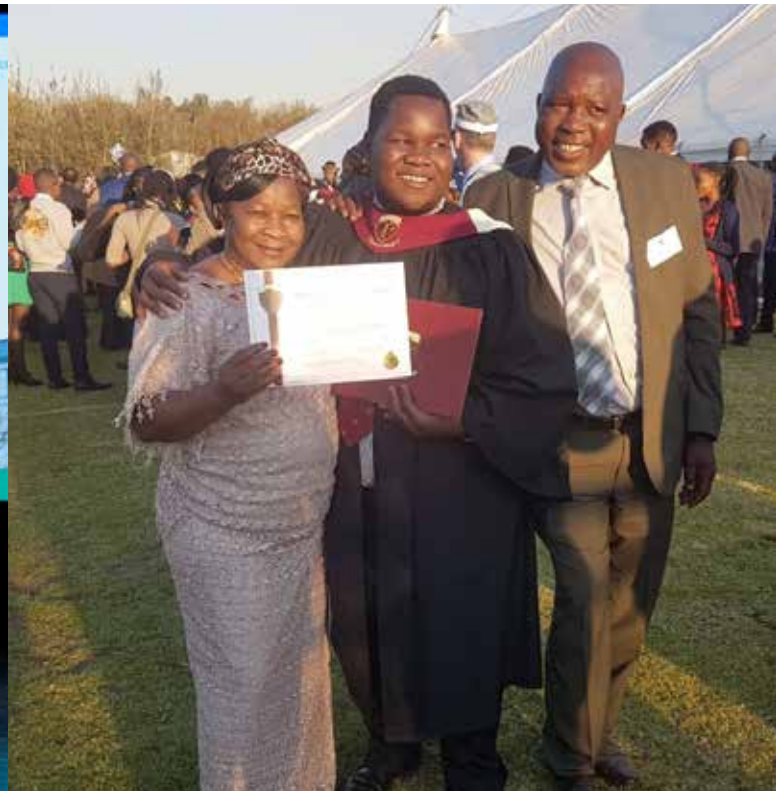


Kuzivakwashe Zimbabwe

I started attending Dartmouth College in the fall, and as of now, I am not entirely sure what I will be studying, but I am leaning towards Political Science. Internship-wise, over the summer also, I engaged with local law firms in an effort to understand what human rights mean legally in Zimbabwe.

I've remained close friends with many of my other fellows, especially Ider and Catherine. A pivotal moment in my Fellowship journey came when the coup happened in Zimbabwe last year and every one messaged me to check on how I was or my thoughts on what was happening in the country. It was encouraging to see people from all over the world zoned in on my experience and curious about how Zimbabwe's future impacted my own future as a global citizen, and theirs as well.

*Left, Konstantina's graduation from UWC Changshu China.
Right, Kuzi's graduation from African Leadership Academy.*





Masa
United States, Japan

Here is a short summary of my work since I attended the GCI Fellowship 2017:

- Founded the American School In Japan (ASIJ) Socratic Society
- Continued to run ASIJ Refugee Aid Group
- Raised more than \$2,000 in funds
- Became a licensed tour guide for the Tokyo City Government
- Brewed and sold Kombucha from my basement
- Published an extensive research paper on the TPP11 and rural Japan
- Was recognized and accepted by various conferences and professors
- Interned for a Ed-Tech startup Chroma Up and was flown out to India to assist in the work
- Worked in Chennai and Bangalore schools to connect college opportunities to Indian high schoolers
- Spread awareness and usage of mobile app in Tokyo
- Conducted part-time research for Temple University Professor Robert Dujarric
- Researched the usage of LinkedIn amongst workers in Japan
- Became the Director of Operations and East Asia Correspondent for high school political website RootPolicy.org
- Interned for rural revitalization NPO "The Most Beautiful Villages in Japan"
- Started an online platform to share internship/work opportunities with high schoolers in Japan "Tokyo Youth Organization"
- Hosted a "Summit" event in March, which attracted 60 local high schoolers to network with firm leaders and speakers
- Continued to be really involved in the GCI Community by spreading awareness in Tokyo that GCI is bringing the Summit to Japan next year



Matthew
United States

I joined the University of Virginia's freshman class this fall, after interning at GCI during the summer. I plan to apply to the McIntire School of Commerce after my sophomore year, to study Global Business and Finance.

At UVA I plan to stay involved with the same activities that I was involved in in high school. In addition, I plan to apply into the business school at UVA, focusing on finance and global business. Investigating the global marketplace has always been an interest of mine. Given the rapidly globalizing nature of our world and the increasing connectedness, how we react to these circumstances is critical. Rather than closing ourselves off to the world, collaboration, cooperation, and critical thinking is required to ensure that the best possible result occurs for the greatest number of people. I hope to play a role in coming to this solution.



Above, Masa speaking during the "Summit" event he hosted in March.



Obaidullah Afghanistan

I graduated from the American International School of Utah (AISU) as the valedictorian for my graduating class and with 36 extra high school credits (being the student graduating with the highest high school credits in the state of Utah). During the summer, I worked a full-time summer job at AISU as kind of someone who basically does everything from office paperwork to working in the high school or managing school facilities and stuff.

For this fall, I was going to head to an Ivy League school but due to some circumstances, I am not able to anymore. But before transferring to that Ivy League, I might start at Westminster College in Utah this fall. While being at Westminster for a while, I will be (hopefully) doing an internship at the U.S. House of Representative in the Office of the Utah Representative Mia Love in D.C.

Also, I will be working with the Utah State Board of Higher Education for a while starting from this fall as an ambassador and someone who inspires people of all different socioeconomic levels, cultures, and backgrounds to pursue higher education as a vehicle for success! I will be working with different high school college counselors all across Utah. Also, I will be working with Utah student refugees and taking them on different college tours, introducing them to job opportunities, internships, summer programs and helping them with the college process since many of them don't really have a support system. So, that's exciting!

Regarding my GSP, I have been talking to a couple high school students to continue running the Refugee Club (the club that I have been implementing my GSP project in) and those students seem to be pretty excited about it! There are so many things GCI has taught me that I would not have known otherwise. It has taught me about how life-changing and momentous our communication and meeting with people from all over can be. These days, people take "meeting with each other" for granted. They don't usually consider the type of influence those meetings can have on people around the world. Through GCI, I have been able to trust my own voice and speak up for those who have lost their voices during wars and life hindrances. It has taught me to learn to share what I know with others as a way to add new types of values to societies...and more.



Left, Obaid with Sydney (2017) at the United Nations for the GCI Reunion. Above, Obaid at graduation from AISU where he was the valedictorian.



Omar Jordan

I will be attending The George Washington University in Washington, DC. I got into the school of applied sciences and engineering, but I still don't know what field of engineering I'm going to study. Being in Washington, DC, I will have the opportunity to have internships at international organisations, and I plan to advocate for the cause of my GSP, which is the refugees crisis in Jordan.

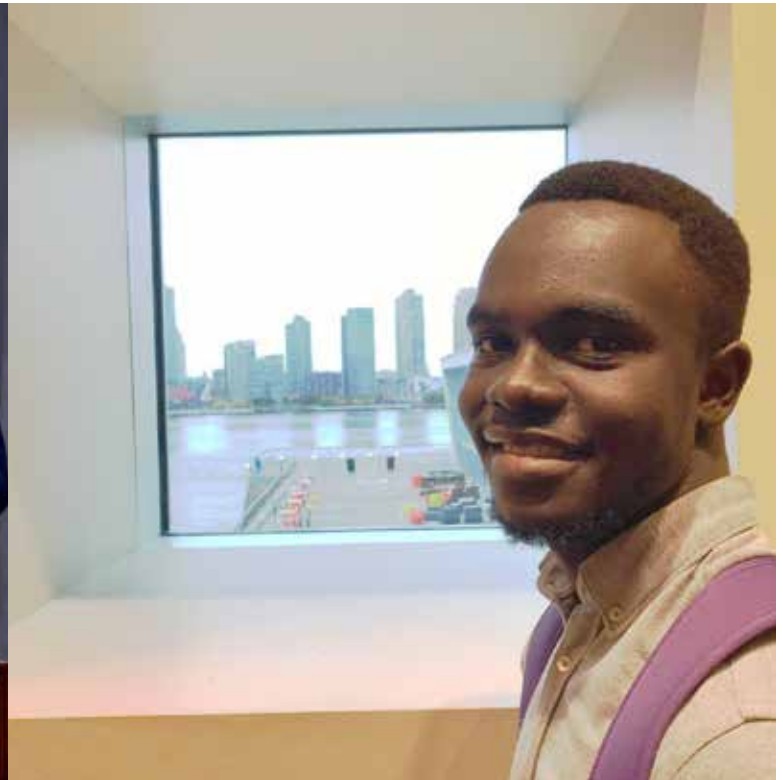


Sydney Kenya

I started attending Wesleyan University in the fall on a full scholarship.

I was the winner of the GSP Seed Funding Competition for the Fellowship 2018, for my project Affordable and Accessible Sanitation for Women. We provide re-usable, comfortable sanitary pads for girls in my community. I have successfully mentored underclassmen at my high school to take over my Glocal Service Project so that, despite my departure, the project is still moving along.

*Left, Sydney's graduation from Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa.
Right, Sydney enjoying the United Nations' view of the East River
during the GCI Reunion.*





Trevor Uganda

As I write this, I am approximately two weeks away from my graduation from the African Leadership Academy here in Johannesburg, South Africa. While I look forward to graduation, I hold mixed feelings about leaving this place, it hold special memories for me and has been a roller coaster ride!

After ALA, I will be attending the University of Notre Dame this fall as a Hesburgh-Yusko scholarship recipient. For all the things I have heard about college in the United States, I don't know what to expect but I am certainly looking forward to having a great time at ND.

This summer, I will be attending the World Leading Schools Association Student Conference in Jeju, South Korea, alongside other incredible scholars from around the world. I am excited to be visiting the Asian continent for my very first time and I hope to taste a lot of good food and learn a lot during my time there.

In regard to my GSP, this summer I will be returning home to meet with my team and re-strategize on how to move forward onto the next phase of our SAT tutoring program. The start of this was really difficult, having to coordinate it from miles away and working on a bootstrap budget made things even more complicated. However, one of the lessons from GCI that stuck with me and still carries me through such moments was Dr. Kim's advice that we should never substitute hardwork for hard thinking. With this in mind, even when things are going south, I am careful not to disguise any challenges behind the smoke of hardwork. I rather confront them head-on. This process has helped me to continuously iterate ideas and approaches until one fine solution comes out.

At Notre Dame, I plan to study economics and political science in order to gain a better understanding of how the global economic system works, and Africa's place in the same. Outside my professional pursuits, I hope to commit myself to my people's struggle for economic liberation in Uganda and Africa at large.



*Above, Trevor speaking during African Leadership Academy's decennial celebrations.
Middle, Trevor and Whitney (2015) sharing stories at the GCI Reunion.
Below, Trevor asking an insightful question of the BCG speaker during the GCI Reunion.*

2016

Abigail. Abokor. Anwaar. Audrey. Bella. Bushra. David. Edward. Erica. Erik. Esmatullah. Jenny. JD. Kamel. Lara. Lawrence. Michelle. Molly. Nadine. Nancy. Philip. Robin. Roland. Sari. Sohini. Tomás. Wei Yang. Wisdom.



Bella
United States

I am currently a sophomore at Columbia University. I'm working at the Metropolitan Museum's Teens Take the Met event, hosting a table focused on re-envisioning museums as equitable spaces.



Above, Bella with Wisdom (2016) at the GCI Reunion Brunch.



Bushra
Jordan

This summer, I spent a lovely time with family and friends during Ramadan and Eid. I interned at the Political Affairs Directorate in HM King Abdullah II's office in the Royal Hashemite Court. I worked with the international affairs team, researching, writing policy papers, and contributing with political analysis, amongst other things.

As for this fall, I am continuing my second year studying at the School of Foreign Service in Georgetown University. I'm studying International Economics, in a very diverse place that is deeply involved in international relations and foreign cultures. As a global citizen, I love it because it is exactly the place GCI nurtured us to seek and appreciate.

Next year, my friends and I are opening a branch for Rotary International, an organization that works on promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting education, saving mothers and children, and growing local economies.

Left, Bushra visiting the Singaporean Embassy in Washington, D.C.

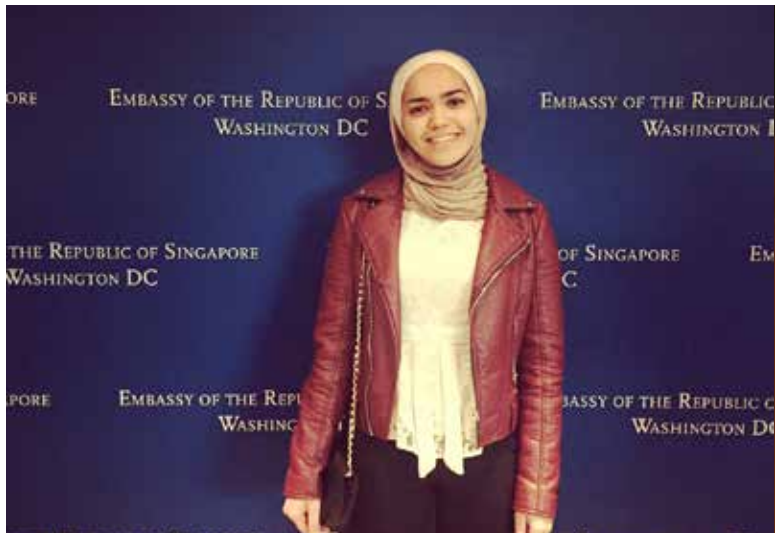
Right, David in the United Nations for the GCI Reunion.



David
United States

In my freshman year at Georgetown University, I sought out to join an internship opportunity that has a focus on helping the immigrant community within the DC area. As a result, I began to intern at the Restaurant Opportunities Center of DC (ROC-DC) that focuses on uplifting the labor standards and wages of immigrant restaurant workers in DC. Throughout my year long internship with ROC-DC, one of our main objectives was to raise the minimum wage for tipped workers from \$3.33 an hour, to a gradual increase of \$15 dollars an hour. Fortunately, with community engagement, we were able to get the initiative on the ballot these past elections, and get it passed.

Now, in my sophomore year in college, I am currently interning with an organization called Many Languages One Voice (MLOV) that provides resources to the immigrant community in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. We do everything from translating letters from Immigration Enforcement, to accompanying individuals to court when it comes to deportation hearings. We also work with providing legal counsel for labor violations that are very prominent within the immigrant community.





Esmatullah
Afghanistan

I have been volunteering with Habitat for Humanity for a while here in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It has been a wonderful experience that has made me connect with different people. Working together towards a cause that I deeply care about has been a transformative experience. I have also been involved in organizing various events for the youth in Afghanistan with my non-profit Voice of Peace. Our Facebook page just shows how much active we are. Although, I am in the States, I still deeply care about the problems back home in Afghanistan.



Kamel
Libya, Morocco

While I am currently enrolled in the Huntsman program at the University of Pennsylvania, I am double majoring in business and international studies. This educational path, along with my life narrative, has instilled in me a strong interest in the restructuring and development of inefficient financial institutions.

I aspire to work for the Libyan sovereign wealth fund and leverage the capital created to realize positive investments and impact in the country. For this, I have had the great opportunity to work alongside the Wharton MBA Lauder Institute, with whom I have been conducting research for the past 8 months on two topics that equip me with the financial experience, skills, and knowledge to make a positive impact.

The first one revolves around researching the financial and monetary development of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in emerging markets. I have had the opportunity to interview local business owners in Mexico and Senegal and then work with local financial institutions and government authorities to develop solutions to the SMEs industry.

The second research project has enabled me to design investment recommendations for the management of Sovereign Wealth Funds in resource-rich nations (that suffer from political and economic instability, such as Libya and Venezuela). These research opportunities enabled me to stay an engaged global citizen and to make a positive impact.



Top, Kamel with Trevor (2017) and Birk (2018) at the GCI Reunion Brunch.

Bottom, Kamel and JD (2016) at the United Nations for the GCI Reunion.



Michelle Mongolia, United States

I am currently in my sophomore year in the BFA for Dramatic Arts program at The New School in New York. I am pursuing a concentration in Directing, with a minor in Creative Technologies. I have been working to improve creative education and cultural innovation in my home country of Mongolia since attending GCI in 2016. Currently, I am taking on new horizons in stage management and stage design.

I was more than happy to work with the GCI Family this past summer as an intern!



*Left, Michelle and Tsetsen (2018) at the Summit 2018.
Right, Michelle and David (2015) celebrate their summer birthdays during their internships.*



Molly United States

This summer I interned at the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) which was incredible. I then left for a study abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France. I was there for a month taking an intensive French class at the University and staying with a French family. I absolutely loved living abroad and my language skills definitely improved but I really missed having my own space!

Then when I got back in July I continued interning with CIRI. My time with GCI definitely helped inspire me to take chances and open myself up to different opportunities like the study abroad in France. This fall I returned as a sophomore to University of Michigan where I am studying International Studies with minors in French and Law, Justice, and Social Change.



Roland Uganda

I have been busy preparing on my current project with Red Cross which is starting this Sunday. My organization is partnering with Red Cross to deliver a training on 21st century skills.

I am currently attending the University of Rochester in New York State.



Wisdom United States

Since GCI, I've carried the lessons I learned with me virtually everywhere I go. The biggest impact for me, however, was the confidence I got out of the experience. It taught me that I am capable of engaging in those kinds of intellectual conversations, and of really accomplishing any project or goal that I fully put my mind to. I'm no longer scared to talk to other people, and enjoy rising to the platform of discussion.

My senior year, immediately after the Fellowship, I became president of my high school tour guides club, captain of the varsity judo team, and I spent a lot of time speaking at various events about the power and importance of cross-cultural relationships, and spending time abroad. I was asked to give speeches at various alumni events, and hold discussions with major donors and trustees.

I decided to pursue a degree in International Relations (focusing on East Asia and National Security/Foreign Policy) at the American University School of International Service in Washington, DC-- something I never would have considered prior to attending GCI.

Currently, I intern at the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction of Freemasonry headquarters in downtown DC, where I get to share on a daily basis about a group that has connected people around the world, from all different backgrounds and religions. I serve on my school's Undergraduate Council, where I get to advocate for the progression of the School of International Service, including voting on legislature passed and communicating student desires to the administration.

Furthermore, I really do try to live my life as an engaged global citizen in all aspects, and chose to come to DC for school from Hawaii specifically for that reason. I hope to work in a field of foreign service, where I can continue to help people for the rest of my life.



*Left, Wisdom with Erik (2016) and Nancy (2016) at the United Nations for the GCI Reunion.
Right, Wisdom and Jawed (2014) exchanging stories.*

2015

Abdirahim. Alvin. Anna. Aziza. David. Eliza. Fabrice. Falih. Henry.
Hidehiko. Jessica. Kevin. Laurel. Mako. Muslima. Nestor. Nuhamin.
Patricia. Shinnosuke. Sydnie. Takunda. Tomas. Whitney. Yumeka.



Abdirahim Somaliland

At Brown, I directed the University's largest student run service organization BRYTE, connecting hundreds of refugee youth to Brown students for academic tutoring and mentorship. Throughout last year, I worked to help BRYTE to address the root-causes of many problems that handicapped the organization through the years. I will study abroad at London School of Economics all of this year, since I have recognized that being in Providence more than two academic years and two summers might not be very healthy and/or that exciting.



Above, Abdirahim with Yumi.



**Alvin
Hong Kong**

The past summer has been pretty fruitful for me, with trips to Taiwan, a two-week intensive Chinese law course in Shanghai, and a two-week internship at a law firm. I'm now in my third year of BA and LLB degrees, and the workload has never been heavier - apart from my studies, I'm also going to be a mentor in a mock trial competition and participating in a legaltech hackathon later this month. But all these commitments have forced me to prioritize my tasks effectively and getting things done swiftly, so the pressure's quite healthy in this sense!



**Aziza
Afghanistan**

I had two internships this summer. I worked with Razia's Ray of Hope, and with an estate attorney, Kelly Gill of Belcher Fitzgerald. Razia's Ray of Hope is a non-profit organization for women in Afghanistan that promotes and supports education for girls kindergarten through high school and recently started a mid-wife program as well for further advanced education. Razia has a school in Afghanistan for all girls. I worked with the staff and director of the organization by assisting with sponsorship and donor administration in Newton, Massachusetts.

I am attending school at Bryant University and just recently transferred from Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. After doing my project about education as an Fellow in 2015, I started working with Razia Ray, and I am learning every day. Through my work with the attorney, as well, we not only work close with families for their estate planning but help educate them and support them during difficult, emotional times.



*Top, Aziza with Yumi at Bryant University.
Bottom, Aziza and Ider (2017) at the GCI Reunion in NYC and Alqaim's GSP's bags.*



David

United States

I interned at Cook Pine Capital this summer and also returned as a Teaching Assistant at the Summit 2018. Over the past decade my interests in environmental conservation have evolved to encompass the broader mission of Sustainable Development. Through several experiences working with conservation groups abroad, I have come to see the necessary role of economic development and see investments as powerful tools to driving sustainability. Over the past year, I've been exploring finance as a career route and as recruitment for summer 2019 approaches, I am doing my best to consider career paths that support my future goals.



Hidehiko

Japan

I am studying at the University of Tokyo. This summer I visited Malaysia and UAE on a program affiliated to my university. I also held a short internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Invited by the Chinese government, I was able to stay in China during the summer and was able to visit the Chinese Embassy in Japan.

This year, I will probably be studying at a university in Germany as an exchange student for one semester. After returning to Japan, I will be taking the public servant exam, as my dream is to become a diplomat.

*Left, Hidehiko making a presentation in Xi'an.
Right, Hidehiko in the desert in Dunhuang.*





Kevin United States

This summer, I spent the majority of my time working on Homecooked, a food tech startup I co-founded with a high school buddy of mine back in January. Basically, Homecooked is a social dining app that lets you eat homecooked meals with local chefs. Events take place in small intimate groups out of the comfort of the chef's own home. At the end of each event, you can add the people you just ate with, and if two people add each other and match, a little chat window opens up. Then, if you and your new friend attend another Homecooked event together, we reward you with a 10% discount.

Our hope is to combat social isolation and promote community by using food as a vehicle for quality social interaction. In April, we won the TSAI Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale Summer Fellowship, which is why we stayed in New Haven over the summer. It's a \$15,000 grant, along with four weeks of intense workshops and classes.

Starting this business has been the hardest thing I've ever done. I've worked on Homecooked every day for more than 100 days, and still, there is so much more work left to do. While my technical co-founder, Eric, has been grinding away building our minimum viable product (the app), I've been begging chefs to cook for our platform and coordinating events using just a Google Form and Venmo. I still remember what Tomas said to me years ago at GCI: entrepreneurship is essentially building the airplane as you fly it!

I also went to Malaysia at the end of June to participate and observe this international scholastic competition called World Scholar's Cup. I was invited to give the keynote, which was pretty exciting, even if I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to talk about beforehand.

*Left, Kevin and Nancy (2016) with Yumi.
Right, Kevin speaking to a captivated
audience as a Summit 2018 Inspirational
Speaker.*





Mako Japan

I finished my first year of college at Keio University where I have been exploring areas of positive impact on which to concentrate my studying. While I have been mostly geared towards Law, I am still working to identify what I will pursue.

I was made a part of the Ambassador Advisory Council for GCI. Through this position I organized three Ambassador Meet-Ups in Japan so far, and am enthusiastic about keeping up the support for the community.

Below, pictures from the 3 Japan GCI Meet-ups Mako organized with Ambassadors and GCI Community Members from all around the world.





Muslima Tajikistan

I am currently studying Architecture at the University of Toronto on a full scholarship. My first year was very fruitful as I was introduced to the history, design and technology of architecture and I was once again reassured that it the best field for me to work in.

After learning about the buildings of architects such as Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright, I have set new goals for myself in my architectural career both long and short term. This year, I am also planning to do volunteering works at Architectural firms such as HOK and Paul Raff Studio Inc., while I continue my studies and decide on a specialization.

Aside from my academics, a couple of my peers from different institution and I, are collaborating this summer to alter my Glocal Project YOUTHeory, in the context of Canada. Our goal is to eliminate poverty in Ontario by improving the lives of homeless people. This includes helping them find a job, getting shelter and food, teaching them entrepreneurship skills and assisting them in setting long and short term goals. One of our future goals includes becoming an NGO in Canada.

Right, Muslima visiting historical ruins.



Nuhamin Ethiopia

I am in my third year at Minerva University, previously studying in India, South Korea, Germany, and San Francisco. While home in April, I was able to work on my Social Venture, called EconoFreak, to kick-start entrepreneurship.

I was a Summer Analyst for Goldman Sachs, as a part of a ten week program. I am also currently working on a website to provide resources and research on African Economics.



Sydnie United States

This year I am taking a year-off from Swarthmore, and I have been home in Raleigh, NC with my family! This summer I conducted research on Central American Immigration with Dr. Sonja Wolf in Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes Mexico, and now I am trying to think of my own research project for my senior year Sociology thesis at Swarthmore.



Takunda

South Africa, Zimbabwe

After my GCI Fellowship, I have sought opportunities to remain connected with GCI because I value it as a life-long relationship. I have returned as a Teaching Assistant at the most recent Global Citizens Youth Summit gathering this past summer and I am part of the Ambassadors Advisory Council. I enjoy staying in touch with my GCI family, the staff, my peer ambassadors and supporters.

At Notre Dame, I embrace the opportunity to grow as a global citizen by making friends and networks from diverse backgrounds, ethnically and professionally.

Below, Takunda with Ghada (2014) before the Summit 2018 Celebratory Dinner.



*Top, Takunda and Trevor (2017) sent a photo wishing Yumi happy birthday.
Middle, Takunda and the other TAs during an exercise at Thompson Island.
Bottom, Takunda and Abby (2018) during his visit to London.*



Tomas Brazil

Last year, I took a GAP year and was able to do so much learning and growing. I completed an incredible experience with “Where They Be Dragons,” which has enhanced my life even more: went trekking in the Himalayas and became totally immersed in nature. There were no phones and we slept on the floor. During the summer, I visited Tokyo and continued my year of learning and exploring.

I was then a Teaching Assistant at the latest Summit and have started college at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill this fall.



Yumeka Japan

I've been enjoying my life at Carleton College and I took an intro Psychology course, Latin, a religion course named “Global Pursuit of Happiness,” and piano. For extracurriculars, I've joined the Japanese club and we danced a Japanese traditional dance for the cultural dance festival. I've also joined rugby and it's been a new experience but I enjoy it very much!

Left, Tomas instructing his group of Fellows during a GSP Afternoon Workshop.

Right top, Tomas with David (2015) and photographers Luke and Ori during the TA Orientation.

Right bottom, Tomas with fellow Ambassadors from 2015 at the Summit 2018 Celebratory Dinner.



2014

Abhishek. Jawed. Akihiro. Ala. Asrat. Derek. Eden. Elianne.
Fabiola. Ghada. Heather. Joanne. Juhaku. Jurin. Karishma. Kristen.
Marisa. Mikel. Nhi. Nicholas. Noa. Onyinyechi. Pierre. Sao.



Akihiro Japan



College has been great! Williams is really in the middle of nowhere; I cannot stress this enough, the college guidebook descriptions are understatement. However, it's a rather small school with a resulting emphasis on community, so I have many great friends, and there are social events happening all the time. Academically, I feel that the professors value their students quite a lot, and there are many opportunities for high-level work with the general absence of graduate students. I believe that I will have an exciting and worthwhile time here over the next three-and-a-half years.



Ala Iran

This fall is my third year of architecture studies and it contains both designing and theories. During the summer, I went to my previous school to talk about water crisis to 6th graders. They seemed very enthusiastic about it and I hope they received the message I wanted to convey. This summer I was able to do a short two weeks course that's all about designing, especially for refugees. Afterwards I did an internship in Italy! That is mainly about culture.



Derek United States

I am close to finishing my major in economics and am particularly focused on game theory; I have been supplementing my major with graduate game theory classes. While my interests have pivoted a little from high school where I was focused on international relations, I do remain up to date on current issues particularly focused on the North Korean situation. (While I remain optimistic on the long term prospects of reunification, I do not necessarily give too much weight to recent sentiment and events.)

This past summer I worked in New York at Loop Capital. I was there as an analyst within their Public Finance division that primarily deals with municipal bond issuances. I will also soon be recruiting for a full time offer after I graduate so I both look forward to/worry about that as the process begins.

Below, Ala and the 6th graders she visited to talk to about water crisis.





Fabiola
Rwanda

I finished my semester in India and moved back to the US for the summer. I worked with an organization called Social Contract. Social Contract does social impact consulting. It uses design thinking and a collective impact model to help non-profits improve the way their work and how they work together. My work with Social Contract this summer was program designing. I designed a residency program to train college graduates to replicate their model and be a backbone for collaborative efforts of non-profits.

For my fall semester, I am in London. Then my last semester in college next year (spring), I will be back in San Francisco. This year (summer & fall), I am focused on working on my final year Capstone. This Capstone is about teaching entrepreneurship thinking to high students back home in Rwanda. In a sense, it is what my Glocal Service Project has turned to.

Last year, I designed a program (currently running) called the Dual school that teaches entrepreneurial thinking to high school students in Delaware. I want to do the same in Rwanda.

Given that I am graduating next June, I will also be focused on finding a job, as I want to gain more work experience before grad school.

Below, Fabiola and her friends and classmates during her semester in India.



Ghada
Jordan

I am currently a Junior at Harvard University concentrating in Government and Studies of Women, Gender and Sexuality. I have been working with Members of Parliament in Jordan to increase political transparency and civic participation by streamlining local election processes.

At Harvard, I founded the Political Action and Advocacy Committee, which engages in political advocacy for underrepresented groups on campus, and co-founded Tanweer, an education initiative that developed a summer enrichment curriculum for Syrian and Palestinian refugee children in camps in the Middle East.

This summer I returned to the Summit as a Teaching Assistant for the second year in a row.

Below, Ghada at the United Nations for the GCI Reunion.





Jawed Afghanistan

I graduated from the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University in May with a major in International Political Economy. Currently, I work as a Research Analyst at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC.

Below, Jawed meeting with fellow-Georgetown GCI Ambassador David (2016) over coffee.



Karishma Kenya

My career goals and larger vision have taken a drastic turn in the last year, and I intend to impact the communities in my home country through the development of a more vibrant arts education and engagement program. My goal is to get involved in the Kampala International Theater Festival at a directing and producer level, and develop an arts education and mentorship program that will reach children in impoverished areas and disadvantaged communities. The purpose of this program is to foster a creative space and nurture young talent within the East African region (and eventually sub Saharan Africa). Through my efforts, I hope to raise awareness and bring African voices to the forefront, with the hope that eventually these young artists will serve at the forefront of shaping the global theater industry.

Below, Karishma meeting up with Trevor (2017) and Alexandra S (TA 2015).



Kristen United States

I'm now a Clark Senior, majoring in Global Environmental Studies/Business Sustainability, and minoring in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



Nhi United States

During college I was fortunate enough to receive a fellowship to study Japanese and Japan's economical relationships with the US. It was fascinating to learn about the history, policies, and language! As for my plans after college, I'm quite unsure. I'm pursuing a degree in data science and a degree in psychology, so I am currently looking for a job soon. It'll be a pretty interesting year for me!



Onyinyechi United States

I graduated from Tufts University last May and started at Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard this July as a full-time research technician at Bruce Walker's lab. At Ragon, I'm hoping to contribute to the development of a HIV/AIDS vaccine over the next two years and will be happy to share updates as time progresses. GCI has really fuelled a lot of my commitment to making lasting impact on the people with whom I interact, which makes excited for my new role.

*Left, Onyinyechi's graduation photos from Tufts!
Right, Sao and Heather (2014) meeting up in Hong Kong!*



Sao Japan

I have been studying physics at the University of Tokyo. I have aspirations of becoming a veterinarian and am excited to start studying medical subjects in the coming years.

I was able to travel over the summer, and have been able to keep in contact with many other Ambassadors.

104 GCI Ambassadors + 28 Fellows

2018

Abby Thayananthan
Adya Khandelwal
Alexander Kearns
Alexandra Prakke
Alqaim Lalani
Anas Mahafzah
Andy Basaka
Birk McCaffrey
Diane Okong'o
Eita Nakagawa
Elizabeth Madamidola
Emiri Hasegawa
Jae Grace
Khue Do
Louis Okon
Maile Kuyper
Maria Vitoria Torres
Milgo Bulhan
Nga Laam Looi
Osama Abdulazeez
Pratika Nagpal
Rawad Maiteh
Sama Zoubi
Shelzy Rodriguez
Skylar Wiseman
Tanner Siu
Tsetsen Lkhagvajargal
Zaid Alamarat

2017

Abdallah Al Khawaldh
Catherine Jara
Daniel Sequeira
Elif Sensurucu
Gianna Morano
Giuliana Bertoia
Haydn Roberts
IDER Bayar
Joe Bridges
Karla Gonzalez
Kelsey Gabriel
Kemmi Ghodrat
Konstantina Christogianni
Kuzivakwashe Mutsvangwa
Kylie Yeung
Mako Ishikawa
Marius Julius Seiryu Yo Schmich
Masa Kawasaki
Matthew Roer
Norzin Dorji
Obaidullah Barakzai
Omar Zaatreh
Omowunmi Awelewa
Paulo Breitman
Sydney Ochieng
Taylor Walshe
Trevor Lwere
Yue Zhuo

2016

Abigail Africa
Abokor Ismael
Anwar Al Husban
Audrey Reyes
Bella DeVaan
Bushra Al-Sou'b
David Gomez
Edward Caffyn-Parsons
Erica Miner
Erik Novak
Esmatullah Zeerak
Jenny Ng
John Hock
Kamel Kamour
Lara Caouki
Lawrence Li
Michelle Tumor
Molly Kalb
Nadine Khayyat
Nancy Wu
Philip Kuhn
Robin Playe
Roland Naijuka
Sari Samakie
Sohini Chakrabarti
Tomas Cortes
Wei Yang Chew
Wisdom Matsuzaki

2015

Abdirahim Mohamed
Alvin Shing Chit Yu
Anna Manjun Li
Aziza Hamidi
David Shepley
Eliza Cudmore
Fabrice Ishimwe Kabera
Falih Al-Dulaimi
Henry Shapiro
Hidehiko Shigemasa
Jessica Arnold
Kevin Zhen
Laurel Jaffe
Mako Matsuzaki
Muslima Niyozmamadova
Nestor Cano
Nuhamin Mengistie
Patricia De Pauw
Shinnosuke Taniya
Sydnie Schwarz
Takunda Rodney Ushe
Tomas Salazar
Whitney Elmlinger
Yumeka Hirayama

2014

Abhishek Subba
Ahmad Jawed Sakhi
Akihiro Takigawa
Ala Talebian
Asrat Alemu
Derek Chung
Eden Giese
Elianne Paley
Fabiola Kabera
Ghada Amer
Heather Lam
Joanne Chan
Juhaku Okugawa
Jurin Okugawa
Karishma Bhagani
Kristen Truesdale
Marisa Nakagama
Mikel Merino
Nhi Ngo
Nicholas Baughan
Noa Siegel
Onyinyechi Ukaire
Pierre Duval
Sao Sugimoto



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